

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: The Garfield Park Fringe: A Source of Recreation, Education, and Community for a Vital Neighborhood

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This project focuses on the fringe of Garfield Park – the belt where neighborhood transitions to park – and reimagines how these spaces can benefit both the private and public realms as they form stronger partnerships in the future. It endeavors to establish desired future design characteristics, aesthetic characteristics, spatial patterns and dimensions for a re-designed community/park interface as well as preferred activities and program elements that can mutually benefit and synergistically enhance the performance and purposes of the adjacent community and the park facility.

Garfield Park has enormous potential for becoming an alternative recreation/leisure destination on par with the Canal Walk, White River State Park, and the Indianapolis Cultural Trail in downtown Indianapolis. In particular, the fringe area can serve to give current and future residents additional opportunities for enjoying outdoor social space, additional options for living close to the downtown core, and economic opportunities for upstart businesses and employment. The activation of the park edge can serve to draw people in, further increasing the number of visitors to the core facilities in the park. The opportunity to incorporate environmentally sustainable

practices to newly envisioned public spaces can assist in raising awareness on the environmental history of the area as well as on how to create a sustainable future. Finally, by borrowing from and extending outward elements of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail into the neighborhood and park, enhancing connections to existing trails and connector streets, the project will demonstrate the potential to create a more vital and active neighborhood for current and future residents.